

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /077 W
----- 007369

R 281255Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4783

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2632

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT HAMDY COMMENTS ON YAR INTERNAL SITUATION

1. DURING ID AL-ADHA RECEPTION DEC 24 FOR HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, NORMALLY A PURELY PROTOCOL OCCASION, PRESIDENT HAMDY STARTLED ATTENDEES BY TELLING THEM THAT HE WANTED TO SAY FEW WORDS ABOUT INTERNAL SITUATION. THRUST OF MESSAGE WAS TO ACKNOWLEDGE REPORTS ABOUT INTERNAL POLITICAL DISSENTION, FACET OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN YEMEN, BUT TO ASSURE LISTENERS THAT THERE NO CAUSE FOR WORRY SINCE HE WAS DETERMINED MAINTAIN STABILITY AND PROGRESS. HE TWICE EMPHASIZED THAT YARG WAS DETERMINED MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH EVERY COUNTRY REPRESENTED IN SANAA, ALLUSION WHICH MOST PRESENT TOOK TO BE REFERENCE TO IRAQ WHICH HAS COME UNDER INCREASING ATTACK FROM CONSERVATIVES FOR ITS TIES TO PRIMIN AYNI AND ITS INCREASED ACTIVITY IN COUNTRY.

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2. COMMENT: HAMD'S UNEXPECTED AND BLUNT STATEMENT REFLECTS HIS DETERMINATION TO KEEP SITUATION UNDER HIS OWN CONTROL, BUT IS ALSO ADMISSION THAT INTERNAL BICKERING HAS BECOME TOO INTENSE TO IGNORE. PRIMIN AYNI WAS NOTICEABLE ABSENT, HAVING LEFT FOR HODEIDA ON SHORT NOTICE DESPITE RADIO STATEMENTS THAT HE WOULD BE IN SANAA. GIVEN FACT THAT HIS OFFERING RESIGNATION IS WELL KNOWN, HIS ABSENCE ONLY FUELS RUMORS OF DISSENTION. HE OBVIOUSLY, THEREFORE, NOT TRYING TO DAMPEN RUMORS, BUT TO USE THEM FOR POLITICAL AFFECT. GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT "DANCE OF YEMENI POLITICIANS" WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS AFTER ID AL-ADHA INTERMEZZO.
NEWTON

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